

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00

EB-07 FMC-01 INR-07 NSAE-00 SAL-01 CG-00 DLOS-06

OES-06 OMB-01 TRSE-00 EUR-12 /057 W

-----071208Z 102507 /16

R 070829Z JAN 77

FM AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0543

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ALEXANDRIA 0020

CAIRO PASS PORT SAID

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: EWWT, EG

SUBJECT: US-EGYPTIAN RELATIONS AND MARITIME TRANSPORT MINISTRY

REF: ALEXANDRIA 0012 (NOTAL)

1. IN CASUAL CONVERSATION WITH FEDERAL GERMAN CONSUL GENERAL ON 6 JANUARY 1977. I MENTIONED MY IMPRESSION (REFTEL) THAT RECENTLY-APPOINTED DEPUTY MINISTER FOR MARITIME TRANSPORT YEHIA RAMADAN WOULD PROVE MORE CONGENIAL MAN TO WORK WITH THAN MAN HE SUCCEEDED AFTER REORGANIZATION, MINISTER OF MARITIME TRANSPORT ABDEL RAHMAN FAHMY.

2. CONSUL GENERAL BLOMEYER THEN SAID HE HAD EXPERIENCE AT MINISTRY A FEW MONTHS AGO THAT MIGHT INTEREST US. EARLY LAST YEAR EGYPTIAN MARITIME TRANSPORT OFFICIALS VISITING GERMANY ASKED COUNTERPARTS IF FRG HAD HYDROGRAPHIC SURVEY VESSEL WHICH COULD PROVIDE VERY ACCURATE AND DETAILED READINGS ON BOTTOM CONTOURS OF SUEZ CANAL. CANAL AUTHORITY ENGINEERS NEEDED SUCH DATA TO PLAN PROJECTED DEEPENING AND WIDENING OF CANAL.

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3. AFTER "USUAL DELAY" OF MANY MONTHS, BONN INFORMED ITS EMBASSY CAIRO THAT SUCH VESSEL COULD BE MADE AVAILABLE AT CERTAIN COST. INSTRUCTIONS STRESSED THAT GOE NEED NOT BE TOO CONCERNED AT EXPENSE BECAUSE WAYS TO MEET COULD BE FOUND UNDER DEVELOPMENT AID AGREEMENT. BLOMEYER WAS INSTRUCTED TO INFORM MARITIME TRANSPORT MINISTRY, STRESSING NEED FOR EARLY DECISION

BECAUSE VESSEL WOULD HAVE TO BE SCHEDULED ELSEWHERE IF EGYPT
DID NOT USE HER.

4. BLOMEYER HAD MEETING WITH SENIOR MINISTRY UNDER SECRETARY
ADMIRAL SAMMAK AND FOUND HIM UNREADY TO ACT. SAMMAK SAID THAT
"HIGHER LEVEL" IN GOE HAD SPECIFICALLY INSTRUCTED THAT POLICY
NOW WAS TO COORDINATE ALL RPT ALL SUCH MAJOR DEVELOPMENT
ACTIVITY WITH UNITED STATES, AND UNTIL UNITED STATES INDICATED
WHETHER IT WOULD UNDERTAKE SURVEY, NO DECISION WOULD BE
POSSIBLE.

5. WHEN BLOMEYER ASKED IF THIS CAME FROM MINISTER FAHMY,
SAMMAK SAID "NO" AND HOLDING ONE HAND HIGH OVER HIS HEAD ADDED
"THE MINISTRY HAS BEEN INSTRUCTED FROM THE VERY HIGHEST LEVEL."

6. GERMAN CONSUL GENERAL NOTED WRYLY THAT HE HAS NEVER
RECEIVED FURTHER WORD ON THIS PROJECT AND PROFERRED SURVEY SHIP NOW
ON OTHER ACTIVITY.
CHASE

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Message Attributes

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